from the

PRESIDENT'S DESK

Arthur Sipe

The San Diego convention of the ANA still comes to mind as an outstanding and memorable numismatic milestone to be remembered for years to come. It was a most delightful climate to be in, especially for those of us from the East where we have had an unusually hot summer. Again, let me extend my sincere thanks to all who helped make this convention possible.

There have been several questions presented to me relative to who will receive the association's 25-year silver and 50-year gold membership medals. The ANA board ruled in San Diego that we continue the past practice of giving 25-year medals to anyone who has paid his dues for 25 continuous years. Back payment of lapsed years qualifies a member for the 25-year silver medal, and upon such payment, available back issues of *The Numismatist* may be sent.

The board also ruled that the 50-year membership medal be continued for any person who joined the ANA 50 years before that date. An amendment was added to the effect that from now on all 50-year membership awards must be on a continuous membership basis in the association unless voted upon by the board of governors.

Speaking of medals brings to mind an interesting meeting of the Philadelphia Coin Club held September 17, to which many distinguished visitors to our City of Brotherly Love were invited, when the club presented a past president's silver medal to each of its past presidents. These medals are available from our headquarters in Colorado Springs in both silver and bronze for use of ANA member clubs and associations for presentation to their past presidents.

The board also approved, at its San Diego meeting, the awarding of $1000.00 from the association's Reward Fund to B. F. Gould of Sarasota, Florida, for his help in the apprehension and conviction of the thieves who robbed Dr. E. R. Anderson of Chattanooga, Tennessee. I am mentioning this to indicate to you that the Robberies and Thefts Committee, under the chairmanship of Grover Criswell, is concerned about all the reported robberies and is endeavoring to offer assistance wherever possible.

It was the unique privilege of some of us to attend the special ceremonies for the dedication of the cornerstone laying at the new U. S. Mint in Philadelphia, September 18. We have every hope that the new facility will be in operation and open for visitors in time for the association's Philadelphia convention to be held August 12-16 at the Sheraton Hotel.

The drive for new and qualified members for our association will continue and should be carried on as long as we are in existence. Ask your friends, acquaintances and neighbors who have an interest in our hobby to join us. We now present each new member with the booklet, *An Introduction to Coin Collecting* and also a copy of the ANA's numismatic dictionary.

Arthur Sipe